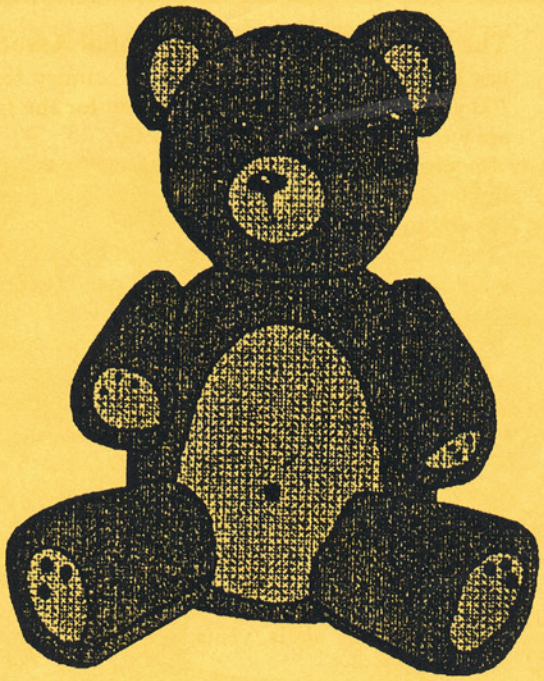
LEYS NEWS

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL



Rainbow Playgroup

will be relaunching
in Jubilee Hall, Sorrel Road
In January 1997

For further details please contact:
Joanne Smith, Outreach Worker, ☎ **(01865) 712299**

Names taken on waiting list at 1 year old
Places for January start still available

RING NOW!!!

FAMILY SOCIAL LAUNCH

and

XMAS PARTY

Saturday 7th December 1996
4 - 11 p.m.
at The Barn

Bar - Snack Bar - Puppet Show - Disco

PROGRAMME:

- 4 - 5 p.m. Party Games (for under 12s)
- 5 p.m. Dragon's Rise Phoenix Puppet Show
- 5.45 - 6.15 p.m. Children's disco
- 6.15 p.m. Dragon's Rise Phoenix Puppet Show
- 6 - 11 p.m. Bar open
- 7 - 11 p.m. Disco

Children under 16 **MUST** be accompanied by an adult (except between 4 and 5 p.m. when children of adults attending the Farmstead Management Group AGM will be looked after by crèche workers).

- 4 - 5 p.m. Farmstead Management Group AGM in The Dovecote

TICKETS:

only **£2.50 per family of up to 4** or
80p for single tickets.

Available from Nathan / Bernie at The Dovecote
Tues. + Thurs. 9.15 - 11.30 a.m.
Wed. 11.30 a.m. - 2.30 p.m.

ALL WELCOME

Grant Aided by Oxford City Council and the Housing Associations.

News from Windale School

If you live on the Blackbird Leys, Brake Hill estate, your local school is Windale School, situated in Windale Avenue.

The School opened in September 1995 and takes children aged 5 to 9. We also have a nursery for 4 year olds (please see Nursery places news). If you have a child and would like to register for school or nursery, please call into the school office, or telephone us on ☎ **(01865) 777796** and let us have your details. We are always happy to show visitors around the school as we are very proud of it!

❋ Nursery places - latest news

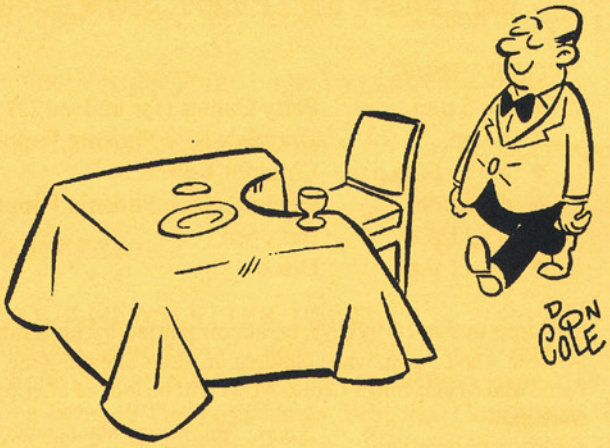
Windale Nursery has proven very popular (too popular!). Although this is good news, it does make a lot of problems. From January 1997, we have very long waiting list and very few vacancies. We will try to get as many children who live in the catchment area into nursery as we can. But we are afraid there will be lots of disappointed parents and children who will not get a place. If you live within another nursery's catchment area, we recommend that you put your child's name down on their waiting list as you may not be offered a place here. We are sorry about this.

❋ Friends of Windale School (FOWLS)

This has been set up to organise social events and fund raising events for the school. It is for parents, staff and friends of Windale School. So far we have organised one event for this term:

A Christmas Bazaar
on Thursday 5th December - at 3 p.m. in the school.

Other events are also being planned for next term and the summer. If you are interested in becoming involved with this and helping us, contact Mr Passey, Deputy Head at Windale First School.



'PEEP'ing into 1997 ...

In January there will be PEEP groups available for all children under 5 and their families who live in Greater Leys, Blackbird Leys, Rose Hill and Littlemore.
For more information or to register, please contact us on ☎ **(01865) 395145**; or drop in to the Centre at Peers School.

National foundation programme

For adults who would like to return to learning

WEA THAMES AND SOLENT

A FREE COURSE with FREE CRÈCHE
Starts on January 9th 1997
On Thursday mornings 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. for 24 wks at East Oxford Community Centre, Princes Road

The course is for you if you would like to:

* develop your learning skills
* build your confidence
* expand your knowledge
* make new friends, find new interests
* find out about new opportunities for work or training
* get nationally recognised credits

For more information about this and other WEA courses:
ring Annie on ☎ **(01856) 361544**
or pick up a leaflet from the Farmhouse

The WEA (Worker's Educational Association) has been going strong all over the country for nearly 100 years (since 1903), but only now for the first time are we providing a course nationally.

Developed by experienced tutors from all over England, the National Foundation Programme is coming to Oxford in January 1997.

The WEA has always put providing education for adult men and women who didn't get as much from their schooling as they might have wished at the top of its priorities. Our years of experience have ensured that the National Foundation Programme is specially designed for people of all ages who would like to make a new start.

A team of friendly and experienced tutors do this through providing an interesting set of topics for study (e.g. discussing issues relating to family and community life, work in the modern world, and what education or training may be able do for you, whatever your current situation), as well as lots of help with study skills, visits, and information about where to go next.

The National Foundation Programme is a free course, running every Thursday morning from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the East Oxford Community Centre, Princes Street starting on January 9th 1997.

There is also a chance to get extra study support and there is a free crèche for under 5s.

If you would like know more about this, or any of the many other courses we run,

- ring Annie on ☎ **(01865) 361841**,
- or the WEA District Office on ☎ **(01865) 246270**,
- or come along to an Information Morning at 10 a.m. at the East Oxford Community Centre on Thursday December 19th 1996, or pick up a leaflet from the Farmhouse, or your local library.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH, opposite the shops on the corner of Blackbird Leys Road and Cuddesdon Way, welcomes visitors at all services. Our main weekly service is 10 a.m. each Sunday. Children are very welcome, and we have a Sunday School for children who do not wish to sit through the whole service.

Christmas Services

✞ *1st December* - 10 a.m. - **Advent Sunday** - lighting of Advent wreath.

✞ *15th December* - 4 p.m. - in The Barn - **Christingle** (candles in oranges), with special collection in aid of the Children's Society. A beautiful service for children.

✞ *22nd December* - 7 p.m. - **Carol Service by candle light**, with traditional carols, and local groups participating. ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE, E.G. SING, DANCE, READ ... , PLEASE TELL US, SO WE CAN INCLUDE YOU IN THE PROGRAMME!

✞ *24th December* - 11.30 p.m. - **Midnight Communion**, with Carols.

✞ *25th December* - 10 a.m. - **Christmas Morning service**. "Joy to the world!"

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR at the Neighbourhood Centre, 1 Cuddesdon Way, **on Friday 6th December, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Many attractive Christmas bargains. Refreshments available. Proceeds to Holy Family Church.

DID YOU KNOW ... ? Every Friday - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., you are welcome to drop in for tea, coffee, home-made cake and biscuits (cakes also for sale), a sit-down and a chat or read of local information at the Neighbourhood Centre, 1 Cuddesdon Way. (Children welcome to run around in the hall, and play with the toys.)

Revd. James Ramsay (☎ 778728)
Revd. Brenda Wilson (☎ 774187)

Churches Housing Coalition (Oxford) is a local group campaigning on issues of homelessness and bad housing. The group is trying to put the crisis in the provision of social housing on to the agenda of every political party, but we want to get our facts right. What is it really like to be in temporary accommodation? How does it affect both adults and children? We would like to conduct a survey among new tenants of Blackbird Leys, many of whom may have had experience of this.

The survey is voluntary; no names will given; no questions need be answered if you don't want to. The group has no desire to cause you any distress or anxiety, but your support would be most valuable.
If you don't want to take part in the survey, please tell the person who calls, or if you prefer, let Jim Hewitt (☎ 712299) know.

If the group feels it has sufficient support, it would aim to start the survey during the first or second week in December.

Looking forward into 1997 .....

Will you win the lottery? We don't know.
Will some new houses in Fry's Hill be finished? They will. The first are due July 1997, and will be well on the way to being finished by Christmas 1997.
Will we have some public phone boxes? We should have, and some more post boxes.
Will it be possible for residents to have more of a say in how the estate is run? It should be, if you come to meetings and give us your views.
Join the Residents Association!
Join the Farmstead Management Group!
The Housing Associations are working hard to make Blackbird Leys a good place to live in 1997.
You can help.

David Truesdale - Area Housing Manager

HAVE YOUR SAY!!!

What do you want to happen in your community buildings?

The Farmstead Management Group
need you to elect a
CHAIRPERSON, TREASURER
AND OTHER KEY POSTS.
and adopt the Constitution.

Full membership is open to all individuals aged 18 and over who are tenants and residents of the Housing Associations in Blackbird Leys.
Associate membership is open to other interested individuals.

Please come to the
Annual General Meeting of the Farmstead Management Group
at 4 - 5 p.m.
at The Dovecote, Nightingale Avenue.
Saturday 7th December
Before the Christmas social.

Free crèche (Party games) in The Barn for under 12s.

For a copy of the constitution or for further information, contact Wendy Spray, Tenants Participation Worker, ☎ **712244.**

Your child will be entertained and supervised at the children's Events at The Barn while you VOTE.

Nomination Form for Farmstead Management Group Committee

Name of person proposed:
Address:

Tel. no:

Name of proposer:
Address:

Tel. no:

Position: Chair / Vice Chair / Treasurer / Secretary / Committee Member (4 places) / Associate Member Representative (2 places)
(Please circle the relevant position)

This form should be returned to **Wendy Spray, Tenants Participation Worker, The Farmhouse, Nightingale Avenue, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 5BU - by 12 noon Friday 6th December 1996.**
Nomination can be taken at the meeting if the positions have not been filled.

MUSHROOM AND OLIVE STUFFING

1 lb. streaky bacon
3 small onions
4 tablespoons oil
12 small brown-cap mushrooms
4 oz risotto rice
pinch of turmeric (for yellow colour)
1 pint chicken stock
4 oz stoned olives
2 tablespoons fresh chopped parsley
2 eggs
salt and black pepper

1. chop bacon and onions + heat 1 tablespoon of oil and cook the bacon until crisp. Remove and set aside.
2. Add 1 tablespoon of oil and cook the mushrooms for about 4 to 5 min.
3. Add the rest of the oil and cook the onions - stirring - for about 6 min. Add the rice and turmeric and stir for about 1 min.
4. Gradually add the boiling chicken stick allowing the rice to absorb the stock after each addition.
5. Mix together all the ingredients and season well.
6. Use to stuff the neck end of the turkey. Cook any remaining separately in foil for about 1 hour.

Happy Christmas!!! Norma Farr

≺ PRECAUTIONS IN WINTER ≻

A With the onset of winter, it is essential that all residents are aware of simple precautions that can be tackled to prevent problems with the property during the winter. Check that:

1. If you go away over Christmas or for a period of time, the main stop-cock in the kitchen is turned off. This will prevent a flood if a pipe bursts.
2. The interior doors are to be left open so that warm air can circulate (except for doors with door closers)
3. The loft hatch is pushed open so that warm air can circulate in the loft to prevent the pipework freezing / splitting.
4. Heating is left on tickover.

B Last winter there were several accidents on the red brick paths in the various closes around the estate. These paths get very slippery and motorists must take great care on them when they are wet and frosted.

Todd Fairfield, Mantenance Surveyor, Ealing Family

❄❄❄❄❄❄❄❄❄❄❄❄❄❄

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
BALFOUR ROAD - BLACKBIRD LEYS - OXFORD

Sunday Mass times
Sunday: 9.30 a.m.
- Also Children's group at 6 p.m.

Parish Priest Fr. John Handock - ☎ **(01865) 779658**.

DIARY

Sleep-out at South Park
to draw attention to homelessness
Saturday 23rd November
9 p.m. - 7 a.m.

Family Socials Xmas Party
Saturday 7th December
4 - 11 p.m.
in The Barn

Leys Residents Association Planning Group Meeting
Tuesday 10th December
6.30 - 8 p.m. (tea / coffee from 6.15 p.m.)
at The Farmhouse
(free crèche for under 12s in The Dovecote)

Farmstead Management Group's
Annual General Meeting
Saturday 7th December
4 - 5 p.m.
in The Dovecote
(free crèche in The Barn)

Start of National Foundation Programme (WEA)
Thursday 9th *January 1997*
at the East Oxford Community Centre

Rainbow Playgroup Relaunch
January 1997
in The Jubilee Hall, Sorrel Road

THE WINNNNNNER

The winner of the draw for replies on choosing a name for the area you live in is

TAMMY CASSIDY

from Celandine Close

Well Done! - She will receive £5.

Using the result of the draw, the residents association have decided to call themselves:
the **LEYS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

Come and join us!
The next meeting will be **on**
Tuesday 10th December - 6.30 to 8 p.m.
(tea / coffee from 6.15 p.m.)
at The Farmhouse, Nightingale Avenue
with a representative of Willmott Dixon, the builders of Fry's Hill, who hopes to be present.
Free crèche for under 12s in The Dovecote.
For more information contact Wendy Spray, Tenants Participation worker, ☎ 712244 or call at The Farmhouse.

CHANGE TO FARMHOUSE OPENING HOURS

The Housing Office at the Farmhouse will now be
closed from 1.00 - 2.00 p.m. daily.
The phone lines will be closed on
Wednesday mornings
(an answering machine will be available for messages)

The reception desk will remain open on Wednesday all day
(except from 1.00 - 2.00 p.m.)

We apologise for any inconvenience, but this arrangement is necessary to enable the housing officers to be trained and for them to catch up with essential work.

David Bird (Community Caretaker) and Freda Sellwood of Kingfisher Green have announced their engagement to be married on Friday 15th November.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

TREVOR CHARLES
Presents TAE KWON-DO
The most effective of martial art there is.
To be held at
WESLEY GREEN MIDDLE SCHOOL
every MONDAYS & THURSDAYS,
6 - 8 p.m.
starting **25th NOVEMBER 1996**
AGE 12 AND OVER

WESLEY GREEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

warmly invites you to:

* Our **"CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA"**
  Monday 16th December and
  Tuesday 17th December 1996.
* **BINGO**
  Monday 18th December - 7 for 7.30 p.m. start.
  Xmas Bingo - *Monday 9th December* - 7 p.m.

The above events will take place at:

WESLEY GREEN MIDDLE SCHOOL,
WESLEY CLOSE,
BLACKBIRD LEYS,
OXFORD
☎ (01865) 774648.

Blackbird Leys Preschool Present:

Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 14th December
Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Loads of fun stalls, Santa's Grotto, face painting, bric-a-brac...

ALL WELCOME

ABLE Open Learning Centre

The Centre is in the library at Oxford College (Blackbird Leys site).
It is open free of charge to adults (over 16) living in Oxfordshire,
and helps students to improve their

* English and study skills
* Maths and
* Basic Computer skills

Each student works independently on their own work programme.
You can start at any time, and come as often as you like.
There is a college nursery on site.

Why not come and see us?
Contact us on Oxford 776334 or drop in to arrange an appointment.

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
Community Education
LEARNING FOR LIFE

ABLE Open Learning Centre
Oxford College Campus
Blackbird Leys Precinct
OXFORD OX4 5HN

Q

Connection
The Oxford Floating Support Team
Would like to wish everybody
a very happy Christmas and New Year

WILLMOTT DIXON

Willmott Dixon Housing Limited wish all local residents a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year

WILLMOTT DIXON
LIMITED
34 Upper Brook Street
London W1Y 2NA
Tel: 0171-409 2716
Fax: 0171-629 0013

CHARTERED BUILDING COMPANY

This newsletter is produced quarterly by an editorial committee of residents and local workers.
It is distributed to all households in the new part of Blackbird Leys.
All contributions welcome. Deadline: 9th January 1997

If you would like to receive a translation of the attached, please contact your Housing Officer.

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਨਾਲ ਭੇਜੇ ਗਏ ਕਿਤਾਬਚੇ ਦਾ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ ਮਿਹਰਬਾਨੀ ਕਰਕੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਹਾਊਸਿੰਗ ਆਫ਼ਿਸਰ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ। PUNJABI

यदि आप को साथ में भेजी गई पुस्तिका का हिंदी अनुवाद चाहिए तो कृपया अपने हाऊसिंग आफ़िसर से संपर्क कीजिये। HINDI

આ સાથેના પત્રકની નકલ જો તમારે તમારી ભાષામાં જોઈતી હોય તો તમારા હાઉઝિંગ ઓફિસરનો સંપર્ક કરવો. GUJERATI

اگر آپ منسلکہ کاغذات کا ترجمہ اپنی زبان میں چاہتے ہیں تو برائے مہربانی اپنے ہاؤسنگ آفیسر سے رابطہ قائم کیجیئے۔ URDU

ADVERTISEMENTS

Use this newsletter to advertise your service or event.
Reach approximately 1,000 doormats for a very cheap price either with an advert in the Newsletter or with a separate insert up to A4 size.
Prices:

Adverts:		Inserts:
£5	for 1/8th of A4 side	£20 per 1,000
£10	for 1/4th of A4 side	(up to A4 size)
£20	for 1/2th of A4 side	
£40	for whole of A4 side	

[Voluntary groups may receive a reduction in these rates]

Contact Wendy Spray on tel.: **712244**

(The Editorial Committee can in no way accept responsibility for services supplied by our advertisers.)

NEWSLETTER

This is **YOUR NEWSLETTER, USE IT**.
The editorial Committee would like more articles and feedbacl from YOU, the residents.
We are hoping to start a *Letter Page* in the next issue. Have you got any issues, comments, ideas, concerns? If so, why not send a letter to The Leys News, Editorial Committee, The Farmhouse, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 5BU.
We may edit letters, and we do not guarantee to publish all letters sent.
We are very happy to help you - or just write something yourself - or come and join our Editorial Committee.
The deadline for all items to be included in the next newsletter will be Thursday 9th January 1997.
Contact Wendy on ☎ 712244 or Joanne on ☎ 712299.

Newsletter produced by:
Antony Bourgois (Local Resident),
Norma Farr (Housing Officer),
Abena Simba-Tola (Local Resident).
Joanne Smith (Under Fives and Families Outreach Worker),
Wendy Spray (Tenant Participation Worker)